Minutes, Sligo Creek Chapter,
NFB of Maryland,
November 16, 2013

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 PM in the Long Branch Library, Takoma Park, by president Debbie Brown.

The October minutes need to be corrected to indicate that Pauline Johnson presided in Debbie's absence.

Debbie read the treasurer's report. Nuts $367, Candy $54; donation $30, PAC $56. Nut expense $1,279.44. Ending balance $741.16. The report was approved.

Debbie announced that $80 in donations at the Greenbelt Giant has been sent to the NfB of MD.

No more store sales of nuts have been scheduled.

We introduced ourselves. About 16 people were present.

Abam Samkoh was attending his first meeting.

Presidential Release of November 5 was played. Death of Abraham Nemeth. Washington Seminar starts Monday January 27. Online auction, Bid for Equality. Preregister at [www.biddingforgood.com/bid-for-equality](http://www.biddingforgood.com/bid-for-equality) The auction begins 8 AM the day after Thanksgiving. Ends Tuesday December 3 at 11:59 PM. The 2014 National Convention will be held at the Rosen Center in Orlando, Florida July 1-6; This ends on a Sunday. Car donation program. US DOT proposed regulations concerning access to airline information, online and through kiosks. 3 years for the online, 10 years for the kiosks. Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities will go before the Senate soon. New York City hearings concerning the Hathy Trust; university library books which were scanned by Google. For people who don't have a computer, information was provided about NetEcho from Internet Speech. $14/month for access through a toll number. $23/month for up to 5 hours through a toll-free number. Unlimited for $75 per month. 877-231-9286. [www.internetspeech.com](http://www.internetspeech.com).

Senate Foreign Relations Committee will hold a hearing on November 21 concerning the convention on the rights of people with disabilities.

Brandon Cox, from the Columbia Lighthouse for the Blind, then gave a presentation concerning Click-and-Go maps. The service will be called Click and Go DC Metro. It started with discussions with Brigid Doherty, Metro's travel instructor. People want information about all these stations. The company was started by Joe Cioffe; he used to work as a travel instructor with the Helen Keller Center, and then he went into accessible mapping. The project will start with narrative mapping of 11 Metro stations. (Done by O&M instructors). These descriptions are intended for blind and people, as well as for people who use wheelchairs, who have cognitive disabilities, are deaf-blind, or are tourists. The first demo will be a virtual tour of the Gallery Place Metro Station from any entrance. Since it's a demonstration, they will also describe routes through the station for various purposes. Also some descriptions of walks to nearby attractions. Routes to bus bays and which bus routes these cover. Descriptions of the nearby intersections. Displayable maps for people with some vision. They are trying to recruit some of the businesses in those neighborhoods to pay for more descriptive work; that will be phase 2 and later. Metro Center, L'enfant Plaza, Roslyn, and others will get virtual tours only. Silver Spring, Fort Totten, Anacostia, New Carrollton. This phase of the project is a proof of concept; a selling point for Metro is that it may reduce the need for MetroAccess usage. The system won't be able to tell you where you are. It could be used for accessible building and campus directories. The project started in September. It May be 10 or 11 more months until completion of this phase, but some things will happen before that. A big event is planned at launch time. Joe Ciofee lives in Thailand. The main format of the information is going to be on a website [www.clickandgomaps.com/columbia-lighthouse](http://www.clickandgomaps.com/columbia-lighthouse). One can use it for trip planning. It could eventually be integrated into Metro's telephone trip planner. They plan to also be able to send this info out in braille or large print. There will be iPhone and Android apps eventually. He played two demos over his speakerphone. Text had been written out, text-to-speech for the audio version. This service will be free to its users. Questions were taken.

We then conducted an auction of double-chocolate delight cookies from Janice Toothman, which didn't make it to the state convention. $130 was raised from those two containers.

The chapter Christmas party will probably be at a TGI Friday's. Probably the Greenbelt location, about 2 PM. By December 12, notify Debbie so she has a count.

Our Diabetes seminar is planned for March 26 at the Praisner Center.

The Day in Annapolis will be January 16.

The TEACH bill was introduced into the US House of Representatives yesterday.

A PAC collection was taken.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:32 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Lloyd Rasmussen, Secretary